

CLAIMS

We claim:

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5 1. A computer related method for funding a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

10 a. providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services;

15 b. providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system; and

20 c. providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to the services provider for an opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system.

25 15 2. The method of claim 1 comprising an additional act of providing the internet-based procurement system to the state government agency for a negotiated price payable to the services provider wherein the negotiated price is designed to provide direct cost savings to the state government agency over other methods of procuring equivalent goods or services.

30 20 3. The method of claim 2 comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee payable to the services provider.

35 25 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

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5. A computer based method for a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

a. providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services,

5 where the internet-based procurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, payments by transaction fees collected from users of the internet-based procurement system and payments by reduced fees from the state government agency; and

10 b. providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system to communicate electronically with vendors for goods or services desired by the state government agency.

15 6. The method of claim 5 comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to the services provider for the opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system.

20 7. The method of claim 6 comprising an additional step of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee payable to the services provider.

25 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

Part B4 > 9. A system for providing Internet-based electronic procurement services to a state government agency, comprising:

- a computer having a processor, a memory, a database, and communications connections to the Internet, the computer provided by a services provider;
- a first server mechanism coupled to the computer for providing procurement channels between buyers and sellers of goods and services;
- a second server mechanism coupled to the first server mechanism for communicating with an Internet portal in the state government agency; and
- a third server mechanism coupled to the computer for communicating with a qualified vendor of goods or services who is willing to pay a fee to the services provider for the opportunity to deal with the state government agency, the fee providing a basis for reducing the price of the procurement system to the state government agency.

10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 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11. The system of claim 10 wherein the computerized eProcurement system for a state government agency is provided by a services provider for use by the state government agency for procurement of goods and services, where the computerized eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, and payments by transaction fees collected from users of the computerized eProcurement system.

10 12. An internet based method for use in an eProcurement system by a state government agency comprising the following acts:

15 providing a web site having a user interface (UI), wherein the UI includes user input and display windows for use by a state government agency user;

 receiving at the website user inputs indicative of a desired product or service;

20 determining from a database whether the desired product or service is available from a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to a services provider for the opportunity to be connected to the eProcurement system; and

25 providing information regarding the availability of the desired product or service to the state government agency user, wherein the cost of the eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, payments by transaction fees collected from users of eProcurement system and payments of reduced fees from the state government agency.

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